



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a citizen of Mexico pleaded guilty in federal court today to violating federal immigration laws.

Jose Rey Rodriguez-Flores, 29, a Mexican citizen with no known address, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to illegally re-entering the United States and transporting illegal aliens within the United States.

Rodriguez-Flores was stopped for speeding in Springfield on Feb. 23, 2004. According to Graves, he was driving a pick-up truck with a camper top covering the bed of the truck, transporting 14 illegal aliens -- nine males riding in the bed of the truck and five females riding in the cab. **Rodriguez-Flores** illegally re-entered the United States after being deported in 2003, Graves said, following his criminal felony conviction for possession of cocaine in New Mexico.

Under federal statutes, **Rodriguez-Flores** could be subject to a sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1,250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow